IN HONOR OF THE 226TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. SILVESTRE REYES
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 14th, we celebrated the 226th birthday of the United States Army. The Army’s proud tradition, which dates back to 1775, has always stood tall, both in times of peace, and times of conflict which placed American men and women in harm’s way. For more than two centuries, the soldiers of the Army have been poised and ready to answer the call of duty to defend this great nation. The military is a noble profession and those who have served have demonstrated their patriotism and selflessness. The Army has always been relevant and remains relevant today. With the Transformation of the Army to a leaner, lighter, and more lethal force, the Army will continue to be relevant in the future. As we forge into the future, let us reflect on the great legacy the Army has given this nation, through the great men and women who were and are proud to be Americans.

EXTENDING APPRECIATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my appreciation to our fine chairman, the ranking member, and all of the members of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies for their good work on the agriculture spending bill and the accompanying report that passed the full committee on June 13th. In particular, I am thankful that the Subcommittee has recognized the important contributions made by the Valley Children’s Hospital located in California’s Central Valley.

Valley Children’s Hospital (VCH) is the only freestanding children’s hospital in a rural area in the United States. VCH serves the 10-county, 60,000 square mile region between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay, and it functions as a “safety-net” health care provider to all children of Central California. The facility provides services regardless of an individual’s race, religion or ability to pay, with over 70 percent of its patients on MediCal.

As you can imagine, VCH faces many challenges to its ability to provide health care. These challenges include inadequate transportation, shortages of health professionals, high poverty and unemployment, and the fact that there are 93 different spoken languages and dialects in the region. Each of the 10 counties that VCH serves is federally designated as medically underserved.

In light of budget realities, we must continue to carefully define our appropriations priorities.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

I appreciate the Subcommittee’s recognition that Valley Children’s Hospital is a meritorious organization with projects that deserve special consideration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my Congressional District, I was absent on Monday, June 25th for three recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall votes, No. 186, H.Res. 160, No. 187, H. Res. 99, and rollcall vote No. 188, H. Con. Res. 161.

HONORING CHARLOTTE KEYS

HON. RONNIE SHOWS
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 26, 2001

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charlotte Keys, who was recently honored as a 2001 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. Ms. Keys is one of the only 10 individuals from around the country to receive this distinguished award, which includes a $100,000 grant to help further her work.

Ms. Keys is the founder of an organization called Jesus People Against Pollution, located in Columbia, Mississippi, which works to mobilize the community to improve health and environmental justice. Her early efforts focused on those in the community who suffered severe health problems as a result of a major explosion at a chemical plant in Columbia in 1977. She mobilized the community and advocated for them.

As a result of her activism, she was asked to leave her job and she endured threats on her life. Undaunted by this experience, and moved by the extensive health needs of her neighbors, many of whom were children or senior citizens, Ms. Keys formed Jesus People Against Pollution, or JPAP, in 1992. She created JPAP to help educate the community about environmental health threats and to advocate for cleanup and redevelopment.

Today, JPAP offers training and advocacy programs and has co-hosted a regional summit on environmental justice with participation by both the state and federal governments. In addition, Ms. Keys has become a trusted leader and the community looks to her as a resource for assistance in other social issues, such as housing, food stamps and disability benefits.

One of her nominators described Ms. Keys as a “long distance runner who possesses a profound commitment to the cause of justice.” It is my hope that she continues to run this race for justice. It is clear that she has covered quite a distance, but the road still stretches out ahead.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege today to honor Charlotte Keys for this well deserved leadership.
Americans. From the time that he joined the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee in 1993 until he departed in January of 1996, he put in hundreds of hours of dedicated work that eventually became the American's State Quarters Program. That singular drum beat, initially opposed by the U.S. Mint and certain federal bureaucrats, eventually became an orchestra playing the same tune—and as a result of the efforts of my colleague from Delaware, Representative Castle, and others, the state quarters program was born.

Mayor Ganz recently wrote a book entitled The Official Guide to America’s State Quarters, published by Random House, as a mass-market paperback which tells the compelling story of initially being a voice in the wilderness, and later finding that if defeat is an orphan, victory has a thousand fathers.

The story about Mayor Ganz which appeared in the June 4, 2001, edition of The Record is a fascinating and interesting one, and I ask that it be reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, The Record editorial about Mayor Ganz that was printed on June 5, 2001, says that one man can make a difference, and I certainly have. I am proud to call this man my Mayor, and proud to have him as a friend. I ask that this editorial be reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as well.

A GREAT TWO-BIT IDEA

It would be an exaggeration to say that David Ganz' idea revives the power of one man to change history.

But it would not be overstated to say that Fair Lawn’s mayor has brightened everyone’s life a little—not to mention the not inconsequential achievement of adding roughly $5 billion a year to the nation’s Treasury.

Mr. Ganz, a 49-year-old lawyer and lifelong numismatist, was the engine behind all those fascinating achievements we’ve been finding in our pockets over the last two years—the ones celebrating the nation’s 50 states. The commemorative coins have been issued at the rate of one a year since 1999, and the U.S. Mint will continue issuing new coins through 2008, when there will be one for each state.

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Mr. Ganz’ idea wasn’t unusual. A lot of people have over the years recommended that the Mint spice up the nation’s stodgy coin and currency’s dull appearance by introducing commemorative issues into general circulation. But the bureaucrats resisted, content to issue the occasional limited-production commemorative that only collectors would buy and save.

Mr. Ganz’ prominence, energy, and perseverance as a member of former Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen’s Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee dismantled those bureaucratic hurdles. By doing so, the Fair Lawn mayor has added this sort of color to our lives: Trips to change makers at the laundromat now have possibilities of becoming serendipitous encounters with pieces of history instead of hurried chores to feed the dryer.