for the homeless children who are fed at Martha’s Table. Mr. Speaker, I commend James, Mrs. Van Samburg and the students who participate in the program to help homeless children in their community.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the many organizations and individuals in my own Congressional district who assist the homeless and the hungry. These services range from mental and physical health programs, help desks, meals and shelter, job training programs, health care, transitional housing and residential rehabilitation. These organizations are fighting the battle against homelessness and hunger everyday. Some of the organizations I would like to recognize for their work include the Daly City Community Services Center, the North Peninsula Dining Center in Daly City, the Grace Covenant Church in South San Francisco, the South San Francisco Food Pantry in South San Francisco, the Peninsula Neighborhood Services Center in South San Francisco, the St. Vincent de Paul Society Cafe, the St. Vincent Homeless Help Desk in South San Francisco, the San Mateo Pacifica Resource Center, CALL - Primrose Center in Burlingame, the Samarian Family Kitchen in San Mateo, and many, many others.

All of these groups help to provide necessary services for the homeless of San Francisco and San Mateo Counties and I would like to pay tribute to the individuals who work and volunteer their time to help the homeless and the hungry in our community.

Mr. Speaker, James Fisher’s experience and the efforts of many other organizations, including those on the Peninsula and in the City of San Francisco, should serve as an example to all of us on how one each of one us can help our communities to alleviate hunger and homelessness.

IN HONOR OF THE REOPENING OF THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER OF NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 12, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of New York will reopen after a two-year renovation. The Center has been a historic former high school in Greenwich Village. The Food and Maritime Trades High School was built in 1844 and became the spiritual home of the Gay and Lesbian community of New York in 1983.

Since its founding, the Center has served as a meeting place for those committed to improving the lives and assuring the rights of those who suffer because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation. The Center is an inclusive organization that recently changed its name to demonstrate a commitment to serving the Bisexual and Transgender community.

Newcomers to New York have always joined together in fraternal and social groups. Just as some organizations help immigrants adjust to life in the City, so too, the Center helps newcomers from the gay community as they adjust to a new life in New York. Quarterly orientations and regular support groups for young people are some of the Center’s most important programs.

The Center is the “heart” of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community in New York City. Each week, more than 5,000 people visit the center to take advantage of the numerous services and programs it offers. It has also become a social center for many people in the community. The monthly schedule at the Center includes more than 100 political and social groups. The AA program alone provides counseling and support for several hundred people in recovery. The Center Library is a valuable resource for both the gay and straight community.

The Center’s real contributions can be seen in the lives of those who have been transformed by the Center. The HIV positive patient who is strengthened through the AIDS support group, the counseled teen who is empowered to stand up to taunts, and the participant in a 12-step program who can face the future with friends from the Center, have all improved their quality of life through Center programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and humbled by many people who work so hard at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center of New York. The reopening of the Center is indeed a cause for celebration.

CITIZENSHIP IMPORTANT

HON. DOUG BEREUTER
OF NEBRASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 12, 2001

Mr. BEREUER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the July 4, 2001, editorial from the Omaha World-Herald in Nebrask,(Lexington, Neb.) He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither.

It is worth remembering that one of the complaints the authors of the Declaration fielded against England’s King George III was that his policies sharply restricted immigration. George correctly saw burgeoning immigration as a threat to his hold on the colonies. And while he could do nothing about population growth in America due to the natural margin of births over deaths, he could and did try to strangle further influx.

Today, although immigration and naturalization still present some roadblocks, the picture is much brighter. Among those who want to plant their futures here, for the most part, they want to be citizens. They then have more of a stake, more of a say. And, to their credit, the process requires work. It’s not like signing up for a supermarket discount card or acquiring a driver’s license.

The procedure usually takes about a year. There’s a standard $250 processing fee, and along the way there’s an FBI background check, an interview and a civics test. So it’s not easy, but at least it’s achievable and the process is regularized and fair. Completing it is, and ought to be, a source of pride.

As has been often noted, this is a nation of immigrants. In the Midlands, that immigration has to a great degree meant Germans and Irish, and in lesser numbers Poles, English, Scandinavians, Czechs and the descendants of freed slaves. Today, Latinos and, to a lesser degrees, those of Asian origin are changing the face of society in figuratively and literally.

It is, we believe, incumbent on those who got here first to extend a welcome to those who are making our country better. Let us work to provide the opportunity to become U.S. citizens for only those who can prove the lives and assure the rights of Americans; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither. . . .