

Vasconcellos served two years as a lieutenant in the United States Army before returning to Santa Clara University to enroll in law school.

In 1966, Senator Vasconcellos was elected to represent California's 13th district in the State Assembly, a position he would hold for 30 years. During that time, he served on many of the state's most important committees, including the Committee on Ways and Means, the Assembly Education Committee, and the Select Committee on Ethics. During his time as a State Assemblymember, he also spearheaded some of the most important and socially consequential legislation of his time. He was responsible for the creation not only of the first campus childcare program in the nation, but has been a steadfast supporter of student financial aid throughout his career. His commitment to education is demonstrated not only by his creation of the Cal Grant Program 25 years ago, which now serves over 60,000 students each year, but also by his advocacy of the personal and academic development of all children, as evidenced by his creation of the California Task Force to Promote Self Esteem and Personal & Social Responsibility.

After terming out of the California State Assembly in 1996, he was able to run for the open State Senate seat in his district and won. He continued to tirelessly serve the public and the cause of quality children's education in this capacity until his retirement in 2004. Though he no longer holds public office, Senator Vasconcellos continues to work for the improvement and accessibility of education, and has worked to establish a scholarship fund as well as a program for students pursuing careers in early education, and another program aimed at building a network of leaders and activists who focus on education reform, children's issues, health, and ageing.

On Saturday, February 19, 2005, Senator Vasconcellos will be honored in Berkeley, California for these extraordinary accomplishments. Through his commitment to improving education and increasing opportunity for all children, he has not only touched countless lives, but exemplifies the true spirit of public service. I am honored to call him "my friend." On this important occasion, I salute and congratulate Senator Vasconcellos for his invaluable contributions the State of California, our country, and the world.

**HONORING CHRISTY CARLSON ROMANO AS SHE IS RECOGNIZED AS A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYWHERE**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join Speaker James Amann of the Connecticut House of Representatives and Mayor James Richetelli of Milford, Connecticut as they recognize one of the Milford community's brightest stars—Christy Carlson Romano. A literal star of both stage and screen, Christy is a Milford native

who has not only shown that talent and hard work can bring great fame and success, but more importantly, how one can use their celebrity to positively impact the lives of others.

Christy is perhaps best known for her current roles on the Disney Channel's "Even Stevens" and for lending her voice to the animated series "Kim Possible." Acting since she was six years old, at only twenty, Christy has developed an extensive background in both theater and screen acting. Her dedication to her craft has given this remarkable young woman a highly respected reputation—especially among her young fans.

However, it is not just her fame that makes Christy such a tremendous role model for young people. Her commitment to her education is a real source of inspiration. This is even more evident when you consider that she has spent the majority of her life balancing both a career and a rigorous academic course load. At twelve she was on the dais of "The Presidents Summit for America's Future" where she met three former U.S. Presidents and as a high school junior she participated in the National Leadership Conference. Today she is a sophomore at Columbia University's Barnard College majoring in Political Science and has already completed a congressional internship with Senator DODD.

In addition to her challenging schedule with her career and studies, Christy still finds time to be active with numerous charitable organizations. The Will Rogers Foundation, the Make a Wish Foundation, the Connecticut Leukemia Society, and the Child Safety Network are just a handful of the groups with which Christy has and continues to be involved. Her good work has certainly touched the lives of many.

Too often, the extraordinary contributions of young people are overlooked. Christy is a shining example of the tremendous impact young people can have on their communities and the lives of others. That is why it is fitting that Christy is honored with the first "Connecticut's Finest Award" and that today will be proclaimed "Christy Carlson Romano Day" in Milford.

Through Christy's extraordinary contributions both on-screen and off, she has become a true role model for young people everywhere. I am pleased to stand today to join her parents, Sharon and Anthony, her sisters Marcella and Jennifer, her brother Anthony, Jr., Speaker Amann, Mayor Richetelli, family, friends, and fans in recognizing Christy Carlson Romano for her outstanding professional and personal achievements. She is truly one of Connecticut's finest.

**CONGRATULATING BEAVER VALLEY BRANCH OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ON 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Beaver

Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women on its 75th Anniversary, and recognize the exemplary performance of service that the organization provides the 4th District of Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1930 by seventeen women at Geneva College, the Beaver Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women has worked to promote equality for all women. They have tirelessly advocated for lifelong education and positive social change, and have met on the first Thursday of every month since 1930.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Beaver Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the service of organizations like the Beaver Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women that personify civic pride and make the communities that they live in truly special.

**TRIBUTE TO BABETTE WISE**

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Babette Wise, on her dedication to substance abuse treatment and prevention in the Washington, DC, area for nearly a quarter of a century.

As a licensed therapist and director of Georgetown University Hospital's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Clinic, Wise has worked with individuals, families, and communities struggling with addiction to alcohol and other drugs. She has helped many people throughout the Washington region transform their lives by providing quality treatment and education.

Her treatment philosophy is based on the acknowledgement that addiction is a disease and that abstinence is the best way to manage the condition. Wise treats her patients with respect and provides a safe place for them to heal.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery, I have gained a greater awareness and respect for the problems associated with addiction, and I am working to promote solutions to these problems. I believe that information, education, and awareness about chemical addiction, as well as access to treatment are the keys to combating this horrific disease.

I applaud Babette Wise and wish her continued success in the years ahead.