

agenda; established a new monitoring system; and revised the training and technical assistance system to strengthen ongoing efforts to improve quality.

Helen also worked hard to create community partnerships by fostering linkages between Head Start programs, community colleges and other institutions of higher education. She established partnerships between Head Start and child care through expansions of full-day, full-year services for children of parents in school, training and employment.

Prior to her appointment as Associate Commissioner, Helen was Executive Director of the National Child Day Care Association in Washington, D.C., where she oversaw a network of more than 20 school centers providing services to more than 1,300 children each year.

Her career is studded with awards, among them the prestigious National Public Service Award, an honor bestowed only on those individuals who have made an important difference in public administration over a sustained period of time.

In a tribute last week to Helen's lifetime achievements, HHS Secretary Donna Shalala said:

I shall miss Helen Taylor deeply. Helen believed in the potential of every child to learn. She devoted her life to Head Start and the education and healthy development of young children. Millions of children have benefited from her vision, compassion, and inspiration. She was a remarkable, vital, courageous woman who spent every day giving with all her heart to make the lives of children better. Her immeasurable contributions to early education will endure for years to come.

Secretary Shalala said it just right. I want to add my words to hers and say thank you, Helen. America's children will miss you, too.

IN HONOR OF HIS DIVINE HOLINESS PRAMUKH SWAMI MAHARAJ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of His Divine Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the spiritual leader of the worldwide BAPS (Bochasanwasi Shree Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Santhsa). He visits the Greater Cleveland area on Tuesday October 17.

HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj is the fifth spiritual successor of Lord Swaminarayan, the spiritual figurehead of the BAPS. At the age of 79, he continues to demonstrate the highest order of caring for others. In his role as religious leader, he has visited over 15,000 villages, 250,000 homes and personally counseled over 610,000 people. He also had the distinguished honor of delivering an inaugural address at the recent Millennium World Peace Summit at the United Nations. His compassion for humanity and his altruistic tendencies have formed the basis for a wide range of noble projects. All his work is united by the common goal of improving the condition of humanity as a whole. As such he is an example to us all.

BAPS is a remarkable organisation which has reached out and touched over one million followers across the world. It has over 6,800

international centers for youth, women and children. Under the leadership of HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj, BAPS has built the largest traditional Hindu Mandir outside India. In a nation of religious freedom and diversity, we should pay our respect to such outstanding work for the betterment of humanity.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today to honor the arrival of HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj to the Greater Cleveland area.

LUPUS RESEARCH AND CARE AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 762, the Lupus Research and Care Amendments of 2000, of which I am a proud co-sponsor. This important legislation will provide vital funding to strengthen research activities and extend medical care for poor or uninsured individuals suffering from this disease.

While lupus affects nearly 2 million Americans, this is a disease that disproportionately affects women, and especially African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, and Native American women. Women are nine times more likely to develop lupus than men. I have women friends who have been diagnosed with lupus, thus I know first hand how devastating this disease can be on individuals and families.

In Metropolitan Kansas City and the state of Missouri combined, there are approximately 29,565 persons diagnosed with lupus. Fortunately, the Kansas City and Missouri Chapters of the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc., among other groups, coordinate excellent support services for those affected by this disease.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in full support of H.R. 762, because there is not yet a cure for lupus, and there are still too many people diagnosed with this disease who do not receive the medical care and support they need. I applaud the commitment of this Congress to enact this important measure.

HONORING JOHNSON & JOHNSON ACTIVITIES CENTER INC.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Andrew and his wife DeMonica Johnson as they celebrate the grand opening of their new non-profit elder care facility in the 25th District of Texas. The Johnsons have named their center Johnson & Johnson Activities Inc., with emphasis on the word "activities." The Johnsons' vision is to offer a place where senior citizens obtain more than just adult day care; they are offered a chance to continue to enjoy life and grow through participation in volunteer activities, and they can receive access to services to help overcome some of the obstacles that older Americans face.

The Johnsons, who are members of the South Post Oak Baptist Church which also lies in my District, have designed Johnson & Johnson Activities Inc. to accommodate life in the new millennium. As people are living longer than ever, the Johnsons are offering an alternative for the thousands of seniors in our area who possess time, talent, and the inclination to share their gifts with the community. There are many opportunities for senior citizens to share their experience and expertise to help others, such as caring for latch-key children, aiding at-risk seniors and their caregivers, counseling small business owners and working in our national and local parks.

In addition to offering a day activity program that includes volunteer activities, Johnson & Johnson will also provide rides for seniors to health care services; run errands; visit homebound seniors; counsel seniors on health, nutrition, legal and financial concerns; and serve as an ombudsman to resolve resident facility disputes and ensure the safety and well-being of residents.

Just having a place for a caretaker to drop off a senior for a day can make all the difference. The Johnsons know first-hand what it is like to experience the exhaustion and helplessness that can accompany the noble duties of caring for an elderly friend or relative. Running errands, catching a child's ball game or recital, even paying bills can become impossible when a relative or loved one needs constant care. When Andrew Johnson's own mother needed him, he was there to help. But when he needed a day off to tend to his own life, there was nowhere for his mother to go. That is when the dream to open an adult day care and activities center began.

Johnson & Johnson Activities is designed to assist individuals in acquiring and/or improving self-help and socialization skills. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more with the Johnsons' premise that senior citizens have much to share and bestow on a community willing to help and listen. I commend them on their new Activities Center, and thank them for their dedication.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 519, S. 2438, the Pipeline Safety Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 520, H.R. 208, to allow for the contribution of certain rollover distributions to accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan, and to eliminate certain waiting-period requirements for participating in the Thrift Savings Plan. Had I been present I would have voted "yea." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 521, H.R. 762, Lupus Research and Care amendments. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 6, I missed rollcall vote 516, final passage of the FY 2001 Transportation appropriations conference report (H.R. 4475). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea". I also missed rollcall vote 517, the rule for H.R. 3244, the Sexual Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and rollcall 518, final passage of H.R. 3244. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

RECOGNITION OF JAMES G. MILLS, THE NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize James G. Mills of Fort Wayne, Indiana in my district for his recent election as chairman of the board for the National Association of Federal Credit Unions. Mr. Mills was elected on June 17, 2000 and officially took over in late July.

In 1985, Mr. Mills joined Three Rivers Federal Credit Union as president and chief executive officer. Three Rivers provides important options for my constituents and as such has been an asset to Northeast Indiana. Between 1985 and 1995, the number of branches increased from one to eight with the number of member companies increasing from 125 to more than 700. Individual membership soared from 15,000 to 65,000 plus.

Along the way, Mr. Mills worked to promote the growth of the community as well as the Credit Union. In 1995, Three Rivers FCU was able to secure Indiana's first Community Development Credit Union Expansion Charter to open the field of membership and provide financial services to less served parts of the community. This innovation was the result of his near two-years of work with local city officials, the economic development offices of Fort Wayne, and the National Credit Union Administration. Most recently, Mr. Mills facilitated an initiative in the area of inner city financial literacy training for an under-served group that also happens to be a new part of the FCU's field of membership. I strongly commend him for his efforts to empower those who are less economically advantaged through knowledge and the broadening of financial services.

In the role of Chairman of NAFCU, Mr. Mills will be leading the trade association that represents federal credit unions. I look forward to working with him and America's credit unions as we work to benefit families and communities, and congratulate him on this national recognition.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI RICHARD HAMMERMAN

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Richard Hammerman of Congregation B'Nai Israel, Toms River, New Jersey, who is celebrating his 25th year with the synagogue.

Much of B'Nai Israel's vibrancy and outreach comes from the influence of Rabbi Hammerman, who came to B'Nai Israel in 1975. He is credited by many as the driving force which helped make the synagogue as it is today.

Through the years, the congregation has enjoyed many additions and accomplishments, among them the memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, the stained glass windows depicting scenes from Israel, and the synagogue expansion in 1983. Despite difficulties during the early days, the congregation persevered, and today it is an active member of both the Jewish community and the community at large, including a thriving Talmud Torah which sends all Hebrew high school graduates to Israel, participates in community programs to provide moderate housing, and in an interfaith group to help house the homeless.

Rabbi Hammerman is described as a "real mensch," a person who genuinely cares about each member of the congregation. He is considered a man of the highest ethics, one who is warm and welcoming.

Having grown from 225 members upon Rabbi Hammerman's arrival to its current membership of 500, his warmth and caring are cited as the strength behind the success of Congregation B'Nai Israel, and for the respect the congregation has earned from the community.

May Rabbi Richard Hammerman, Rabbi of Congregation B'Nai Israel, continue to serve the community for many years to come.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEWART MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stewart Middle School of Norristown, Pennsylvania on their 75th Anniversary. On September 8, 1925, Stewart Junior High opened its doors to 916 pupils and has been a model of academic excellence for the past 75 years.

The current Stewart Middle School was the first junior high school in the Norristown School District and currently enrolls more than 650 students from diverse backgrounds. In 1926, the first Student Council was established and continues to provide real leadership and community involvement for the students.

In 1981, Stewart was selected as one of only two schools statewide to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Education's School Climate Improvement Project and has been recognized by the PDE and the Senate of Pennsylvania for its efforts to improve math-

ematics and reading scores. As an advocate of combining academic and special area instruction, Stewart Middle School applies a "school within a school" concept to learning. This allows students to learn in smaller classes with an emphasis on group learning. Stewart should serve as a model for schools throughout the country.

I am pleased to celebrate this momentous occasion with the Stewart Middle School community. They have much to be proud of during their first 75 years and I expect even more accomplishments to come.

IN CELEBRATION OF ITALIAN FESTA AND THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN FEDERATION OF THE EAST BAY, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Italian-American Federation of the East Bay, for its presentation of the 9th Annual Italian Festa, which took place on September 16 and 17, 2000, at Jack London Square in Oakland, California.

Italian Festa is one of the largest celebrations of Italian heritage and culture on the West Coast. This year's visitors listened to accordion, opera and other traditional Italian music, while watching costumed dancers perform. Visitors were also treated to a demonstration by Tony Gemignani, the "World Pizza Toss King" and a food demonstration with Andy LoRusso, "the Singing Chef."

A photographic display detailing the Italian legacy in the California gold fields provided a fascinating local history lesson for visitors. "Nostra Storia—The Italian Legacy in the Mother Lode" tells the story of one of the earliest and most important, but often unrecognized, groups of people to settle in the California foothills of the Sierra Nevada.

In the tradition of Italian street festivals, Italian Festa provided a great selection of Italian specialties such as sausage and peppers, biscotti, polenta, Sicilian pastries, hand-made ice cream, tortas and cannoli. The food was prepared in the kitchen of the East Bay's Social Clubs, which donate a portion of the profits from beverage sales to a scholarship foundation for Italian-American Students.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Italian-American Federation of the East Bay for its efforts to celebrate Italian and Italian-American culture and history. On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District, I congratulate the Foundation on the great success of the 9th Annual Italian Festa, and wish the organization luck in continuing to educate the community about Italian heritage and culture for years to come.