

IN HONOR OF DIANE JOHNSON FOR
HER PUBLIC SERVICE AND FOR
HER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Diane Johnson, who has been a dedicated public servant, working tirelessly to implement housing programs and promote community development across the State of New Jersey.

As the housing director of Mt. Carmel Guild, Newark, Diane Johnson was responsible for publicly funded housing programs for low- and middle-income families, which placed over 150 families in jobs or training programs, enabling many families to purchase their first homes.

Mrs. Johnson has worked for the New Jersey Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) since 1972, during which time she has held a variety of leadership positions, such as director of the Housing Management Division, deputy office manager, and acting office manager.

In 1994, President Clinton appointed Mrs. Johnson as a HUD State Coordinator. Her duties included overseeing a staff of 126 employees, and administering HUD funds and \$300 million of HOPE VI grants. Mrs. Johnson also manages one of our Nation's largest housing and community development portfolios, and she is HUD's representative to New Jersey's congressional delegation, Governor, and State legislature.

Mrs. Johnson is the chairperson of the Federal Executive Board of Northern New Jersey; vice chair of St. James Prep School; vice chair of Newark Federal Kids-Care, Inc.; member of the board of trustees of the United Way of Essex & West Hudson; and member of the board of trustees for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

In recognition of her hard work and dedication at HUD and her community service, Diane Johnson has received many distinguished service award certificates, proclamations, and commendations from the New Jersey congressional delegation and a variety of State agencies, community groups, and professional associations.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Diane Johnson for her hard work at HUD, and for her years of service to the State of New Jersey, where she has helped build houses, develop and revitalize communities, and change lives for the better.

TRIBUTE TO JAPANESE DIPLOMAT
CHIUNE SUGIHARA, HONORED AT
LAST IN JAPAN FOR SAVING
LIVES OF JEWS DURING THE
HOLOCAUST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on September 1, 1939—the day the Second World War began with the Nazi invasion of Poland—the government of Japan named Chiune Sugihara its consul in Lithuania. As the war progressed in

its destruction and as the Nazi anti-Semites began their systematic extermination of Jews in Nazi-conquered territory, Sugihara was besieged by Jews seeking visas to flee the Nazi Holocaust.

After requesting authorization three times to issue Japanese visas to these victims of Nazi persecution and being rejected twice and ignored once, he disregarded his government's instructions and issued thousands of visas to Polish Jews. Mr. Sugihara signed visas day and night for thirty days. Thanks to these documents, many of the refugees were able to escape to Kobe, Japan, and from there were able to find refuge in other countries.

Not long after issuing these visas in Lithuania, Mr. Sugihara was assigned to serve in Germany. When he returned to Japan at the end of World War II, the Japanese government forced him to resign from the diplomatic service. He was told that this was because of "that incident in Lithuania." Mr. Sugihara died in 1986 at the age of 86 without ever being officially recognized for his outstanding humanitarian service by the government of Japan.

Outside Japan Chiune Sugihara has long been recognized as a hero. The government of Lithuania named a street in his honor. Israel has designated him a "Righteous Gentile." The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington has presented a special exhibit paying tribute to his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month—at long last—the government of Japan acknowledged the true heroism of its own citizens. On the 100th anniversary of the birth of Chiune Sugihara and 14 years after his death. In a modest ceremony at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono apologized to Yukiko Sugihara, the widow of Chiune Sugihara: "Here we praise Chiune Sugihara's courageous and humanitarian act conducted in an extreme situation amid the Nazi persecution of Jews." He apologized to Mrs. Sugihara "for the long neglect" and promised that he would "see that his achievements are known to future generations."

On this occasion, the Foreign Minister unveiled a plaque honoring Mr. Sugihara. The copper plaque was placed on the wall of the Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Record Office in Tokyo, and it reads, in part: "A courageous diplomat of humanity. In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his birth."

Also this month in Los Angeles a documentary film, "Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness" which chronicles the heroism of Chiune Sugihara, was awarded the Pare Lorentz prize of the International Documentary Association. The IDA prize has been called "the Oscar of the documentary world." The film also received the Best Documentary award at the Hollywood Film Festival this past August.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the Congress to join me in honoring Chiune Sugihara on the 100th anniversary of his birth. I welcome the action of the government of Japan in belatedly recognizing the courage and humanity of this outstanding diplomat. Long after the faceless nameless bureaucrats who blindly and timidly followed instructions are forgotten by history, the determination and compassion of Chiune Sugihara will continue to serve as an example of the finest of human action and bring honor to his memory.

FEDERAL PHYSICIANS COM-
PARABILITY ALLOWANCE
AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 207, to amend title 5, of the United States Code, which provides that federal physicians comparability allowances be treated as part of basic pay for retirement purposes.

Across our country, hundreds of federal physicians are working on cures for AIDS, epilepsy, cancer, and heart disease, protecting the safety of food and drugs, and providing medical care to such segments of our population including Native Americans, Defense personnel and their dependents. In the district that I represent, more than 200 of these federal physician's are employed either by the Indian Health Service or the Veterans Administration.

Today, the government does not pay physicians on the same scale as physicians employed in hospitals, HMOs, and universities. Therefore, one of the most important points of this legislation is that the inclusion of this special pay in retirement calculations will further help the recruitment efforts by federal agencies such as the Indian Health Service, the National Institutes of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration. This legislation will strengthen the quality of our federal clinical and medical research programs and have a beneficial effect on health care both on the national and local levels.

I am pleased with the bi-partisan support for H.R. 207, co-sponsored by myself, and CONNIE MORELLA. This legislation would ensure that all federally employed physicians are treated equally in terms of retirement pay calculations.

This is a good bill because it is the fair, equitable, and a just course of action that we should take.

HONORING LIEUTENANT PETER C.
HASSON

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Lieutenant Peter C. Hasson upon his retirement from the Abington Township Police Department in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. It is an honor to recognize Lt. Hasson and his outstanding service to the entire Abington community.

Lt. Hasson served the Abington Township Police Department for 28 years and is currently Chief of Police of Lower Moreland Township. He began his career as a Patrol Officer and was promoted to Patrol Sergeant and then Patrol Lieutenant.

For 12 years, Lt. Hasson served as Patrol Commander, which oversees the single largest division of the police department. He served as Commander of the Abington Police

Tactical Team and as Commander of the Abington Police K9 Unit. Lt. Hasson was also instrumental in starting the Abington Police Community Policing Division.

In addition to serving the people of Abington, Peter Hasson served his country on active duty in the United States Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam and receiving the Purple Heart.

It is a privilege to honor the contributions of Lt. Peter Hasson to the Abington Township Police in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. His dedication and service is appreciated by all those whose lives he has touched.

HONORING SAINT JOSEPH'S
UNIVERSITY

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the sesquicentennial of Saint Joseph's University, a liberal arts university that has been striving for excellence and balance in its academic programs since 1851. For working within the framework of the Jesuit tradition of service to others for 150 years, St. Joseph's University should be commended for its commitment and dedication.

Originally established at Saint Joseph's Church on Willing's Alley in Philadelphia, one block from Independence Hall, the University has moved to several locations within the city as it has grown, including 17th and Stiles Streets, where Saint Joseph's Preparatory School is still located. Saint Joseph's College moved to its present location on City Avenue in the Overbrook section of Philadelphia in 1927. It was recognized as a university in 1978.

Saint Joseph's University is a proud member of the Big 5 and the Atlantic 10 conference. Its sustained commitment to ever-rising SAT test scores of incoming freshmen. The University is ranked #10 among all regional colleges and universities in the northeast quadrant of the nation by U.S. News & World Report. The school's academic excellence is reflected in the ever-growing number of undergraduate applications received each year.

More than 36,000 active alumni from all walks of life are proud to call Saint Joseph's University their alma mater. By providing high-quality education, the University contributes to the intellectual and economic infrastructure of the city, the commonwealth, and the nation.

With a 150 year tradition of academic excellence, the University remains dedicated to its founding principle: that a liberal arts based education teaches disciplined reasoning, effective communication, and a love of learning. It is this philosophy that has brought the university so much success and I wish to recognize its commitment to society and the community. I offer my best wishes to St. Joseph's University for all its future endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 572 and 573 I was unable to be present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

A TRIBUTE TO LOS ANGELES POLICE OFFICER LOUIE VILLALOBOS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a law enforcement officer who has fallen in the line of duty.

Police officers undertake a solemn oath to protect and serve their fellow citizens and if necessary, sacrifice their lives to fulfill this duty. Los Angeles Police Officer Louie Villalobos has paid the ultimate price for the preservation of public safety and civility in the cities of my district.

When honoring the memory of Officer Villalobos, I can say that he was truly a hero, some who was selfless and always giving to others. Without trepidation, he confronted the dangers inherent in his line of work and ultimately gave his life while serving our community. Moreover, he carried out his duties each day with courage and honor. His commitment and courage will serve as an inspiration for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring officer Louis Villalobos of the Los Angeles Police Department. He gave his life to protect the residents of our community, doing so with extraordinary courage, valor and honor.

IN HONOR OF CELIA CRUZ, THE
QUEEN OF SALSA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Celia Cruz, "the queen of salsa," one of the greatest singers of salsa music, who has entertained audiences around the world for five decades.

Celia Cruz has mesmerized audiences for five decades with her exceptional singing talent and her wonderful charisma. She has been one of the single greatest influences on salsa music, recording more than 70 albums, and receiving more than 100 awards, which included a Grammy in 1989 following twelve nominations. In addition, she has been honored with stars and street sections in some of the world's most visited avenues, such as the Walk of Fame in Hollywood and the Calle Ocho in Miami. Celia has also received honorary degrees from Yale, Florida International University, and the University of Miami.

Celia began her illustrious career in Cuba in the late 1940s, and joined the legendary group

La Sonora Matancera in the early 1950s. After several successful recordings, the group's music was in demand beyond the borders of Cuba.

In 1960, Celia left Cuba for the United States, where her career blossomed and where she became a household name. During her first decade in the United States, she recorded several albums with the great Tito Fuente, and together they captured the hearts of nontraditional fans of salsa, a phenomenon known as "the Salsa of the 70s." Celia has also collaborated with other great Latin artists, including Johnny Pacheco, Willy Colon, and la Fania All Stars, as well as great American artists, such as Dionne Warwick, Patti Labelle, David Byrne, Gloria Estefan, and Wyclef Jean.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Celia Cruz—a great artist and entertainer, and a salsa icon.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. BRYANT,
HI-DESERT WATER DISTRICT
GENERAL MANAGER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, in California's High Desert, water is one of the most valuable commodities, and the people who obtain and distribute this precious liquid are among the hardest working public servants in the 40th Congressional District. I would like today to offer a salute to an exemplary public servant who had spent years ensuring water is delivered in a dry place: Charles E. Bryant, general manager of the Hi-Desert Water District, which serves 25,000 people in Yucca Valley, California.

Mr. Bryant came to the Hi-Desert Water District in 1992 after serving as city administrator for the City of Hawaiian Gardens, California and a member of the board of directors of the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District for 10 years. His extensive background prepared him to help run a far-flung but growing water district, but no amount of experience could prepare him for what happened within two weeks of his arrival. The Landers Earthquake, a massive 7.4 on the Richter Scale, damaged 40 percent of the district's 274 miles of pipelines. Working around the clock, Mr. Bryant and the dedicated staff of the district had everything repaired and working within two weeks.

Under Chuck Bryant's leadership, the district has joined with the Mojave Water Agency to build and operate the Morongo Basin Pipeline and the Hi-Desert Pipeline Extension and a 5 million-gallon reservoir that brings the area's residents water from the California Aqueduct. Working with my office, the district has joined the Bureau of Reclamation's Title 16 Program, and could qualify for \$12 million in grants for wastewater treatment facilities. The district has also sought and received other grants for wastewater facility construction and for removal of nitrates from local water.

Looking ahead to the future, Mr. Bryant oversaw creation of an "in-house capital replacement program" to replace and modernize the district's delivery system over 12 years. Other efficiency measures have improved customer service and placed the district on its most stable financial foundation.